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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/708,065

02/06/2004

Scott L Nielson

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20451

7590

12/03/2007

GRANT R CLAYTON

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EXAMINER

MERCIER, MELISSA S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/03/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/708,065

Applicant(s)

NIELSON ET AL.

Examiner

Melissa S. Mercier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-27-07.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Summary

Receipt of Applicants Remarks filed on September 27, 2007 is acknowledged. Applicants' arguments have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous Office Actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Applicant has indicated that claims 9-16 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Belden (US Patent 2,288,386) in view of Takami (US Patent 6,525,724).

Belden discloses a method of manicuring and articles for same. The articles comprise "a pre-formed, pre-dried finger nail or toe nail decorative coating which may be formed into desired shapes and may be readily applied by the user (column 2, lines

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23-27). Belden further discloses the articles are applied by simply wetting and adhering it to a clean nail by simple pressure (column 5, lines 41-45).

Belden does not disclose digitizing the nail surface.

Takami discloses a nail ornamenting device which provides a three dimensional image of the contours and shape of a nail (abstract). Takami further discloses "a nail ornamenting device, with respect to a nail portion having its contour recognized by contour recognition device and having its unevenness recognized by unevenness recognition device, the shape or the like is displayed by three-dimensional display devices" (abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Belden with the teachings of Takami in order to "enable clear printing of a desired pattern or the like on a nail surface" (Takami, abstract).

Applicant is reminded that where the general conditions of the claims are met, burden is shifted to applicant to provide a patentable distinction. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955).

Furthermore the claims differ from the reference by reciting a specific thickness of the nail polish/covering. However, the preparation of nail polish/decorative compositions having various thicknesses and it is within the level of skill of one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. It has also been held that the mere

selection of proportions and ranges is not patentable absent a showing of criticality. See *In re Russell*, 439 F.2d 1228 169 USPQ 426(CCPA 1971).

Claims 1-8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hauser et al. (US Patent 2,449,070) in view of Takami (US Patent 6,525,724).

Hauser discloses a method of manicuring and preparation of the hands immediately preceding the application of nail polish (column 1, lines 1-3). Hauser discloses a compound is applied to the fingers just prior to putting polish on the nails which will leave a coating thereof that is substantially permanently moist and non-drying, so that even though some of the nail polish may be inadvertently brushed past its intended areas and onto such coating, no harm will be done, because upon finishing such polishing and drying, it takes only a simple whipping operation to remove said coating together with any polish adherent thereto" (column 1, lines 31-43).

Hauser does not disclose digitizing the nail surface.

Takami discloses a nail ornamenting device which provides a three dimensional image of the contours and shape of a nail (abstract). Takami further discloses "a nail ornamenting device, with respect to a nail portion having its contour recognized by contour recognition device and having its unevenness recognized by unevenness recognition device, the shape or the like is displayed by three-dimensional display devices" (abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Hauser with the teachings of Takami in order to "enable clear printing of a desired pattern or the like on a nail surface" (Takami, abstract).

Applicant is reminded that where the general conditions of the claims are met, burden is shifted to applicant to provide a patentable distinction. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955).

Furthermore the claims differ from the reference by reciting a specific thickness of the nail polish/covering. However, the preparation of nail polish/decorative compositions having various thicknesses and it is within the level of skill of one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. It has also been held that the mere selection of proportions and ranges is not patentable absent a showing of criticality. See *In re Russell*, 439 F.2d 1228 169 USPQ 426(CCPA 1971).

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Drake et al (US Patent 3,034,965) in view of Takami (US Patent 6,525,724).

Drake discloses a composition and method for treating nails. Drake discloses a "nail base compositions adapted to be applied directly to the fingernails. The nail base is beneficial to the physical structure of the fingernail in that it counteracts the ill effects of the chemicals presenting the polish removers" (column 1, lines 22-26). The nail base is applied immediately prior to the polish (column 1, lines 34-36).

Drake does not disclose digitizing the nail surface.

Takami discloses a nail ornamenting device which provides a three dimensional image of the contours and shape of a nail (abstract). Takami further discloses "a nail ornamenting device, with respect to a nail portion having its contour recognized by contour recognition device and having its unevenness recognized by unevenness recognition device, the shape or the like is displayed by three-dimensional display devices" (abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Drake with the teachings of Takami in order to "enable clear printing of a desired pattern or the like on a nail surface" (Takami, abstract).

Applicant is reminded that where the general conditions of the claims are met, burden is shifted to applicant to provide a patentable distinction. Where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. See *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454 105 USPQ 233,235 (CCPA 1955).

Furthermore the claims differ from the reference by reciting a specific thickness of the nail polish/covering. However, the preparation of nail polish/decorative compositions having various thicknesses and it is within the level of skill of one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. It has also been held that the mere selection of proportions and ranges is not patentable absent a showing of criticality. See *In re Russell*, 439 F.2d 1228 169 USPQ 426(CCPA 1971).

Claims 1-4, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kishita et al. (US Patent 6,703,003) in view of Takami (US Patent 6,525,724).

Kishita discloses a manicure composition for nails, which was used to coat the nails (column 2, lines 52-53) after manicuring. The nails were then "evaluated by observing each dried coating on a nail with the naked eye" (column 4, lines 11-13).

Kishita does not disclose digitizing the nail surface.

Takami discloses a nail ornamenting device which provides a three dimensional image of the contours and shape of a nail (abstract). Takami further discloses "a nail ornamenting device, with respect to a nail portion having its contour recognized by contour recognition device and having its unevenness recognized by unevenness recognition device, the shape or the like is displayed by three-dimensional display devices" (abstract).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Kishita with the teachings of Takami in order to "enable clear printing of a desired pattern or the like on a nail surface" (Takami, abstract).

Response to Arguments

Applicants arguments have been fully considered by are not persuasive.

Applicant argues none of these references teach or suggest coating the nail surface prior to scanning as a means of enabling the scanning device to better distinguish between the nail and the surrounding surface. Therefore, coating the nail surface prior to scanning would not have been obvious either from Takami alone or by combining

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Takami with any of the other references. The examiner disagrees. Takami discloses "a nail ornamenting device, with respect to a nail portion having its contour recognized by contour recognition device and having its unevenness recognized by unevenness recognition device, the shape or the like is displayed by three-dimensional display devices" (abstract). It is the position of the examiner that such a device is a digitization of the nail surface.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., enablement of the scanning device to better distinguish between the nail and the surrounding tissue) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

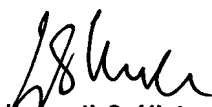
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melissa S. Mercier whose telephone number is (571) 272-9039. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-4pm Mon through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571) 272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MSMercier


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